

facing potential consequences from losing their license, their freedom, or their life. His clients benefited from his nonjudgmental nature, generous heart, good humor, practical approach, understanding, and kindness.

"I can only count on one hand, the times when he couldn't see the good in his client," Liz said. "In those cases, he always fought for someone close to them, a mother, wife, son, or daughter."

Despite the odds and the outcomes, Liz said, Brendan was consistently supportive of his clients, sometimes even providing them with practical things like Liz's favorite pair of sweatpants, which happened to be in the backseat of his car.

He was a constant source of encouragement and positivity to many Delawareans, whether it was the father saying goodbye to his teenage son found guilty or the girlfriend of a drug dealer starting anew in the witness protection program. Brendan often stayed in touch with the family and friends of his clients long after the verdict came down.

Brendan always fought hard for his clients, giving them and their loved ones his best shot. The courtroom was theater to Brendan, and he thrived on being prepared and at the top of his game.

"I remember many nights listening to a closing argument at the dining room table with a cardboard box as a podium and charts taped to the walls as he practiced his speech," Liz fondly remembered.

Brendan is a person who respects everyone's role in the court system. He often would go out of his way to get to know the people who made it happen, including the bailiffs, court reporters, clerks, judges, and the "other side," depending on his role as a prosecutor or a defense attorney.

Many Delawareans don't know that Brendan had a thriving pro-bono practice over the years. He counseled countless teens, young adults, and their parents about legal problems, things such as DUIs, disorderly conduct, speeding tickets, etc. He was there to provide nonjudgmental guidance for legal issues and emotional support.

Along with his pro-bono effort, Brendan volunteered innumerable hours over the years as a board member for organizations such as the Central YMCA, Catholic Charities, Salesianum School—and his current role as the chair of Autism Delaware, an organization close to his heart.

Brendan is a person who embraces new beginnings. He looks forward in times of uncertainty, disappointment, success, and happiness and encourages others to do the same. There are so many examples, but the biggest one is leaving his California-based law practice, taking and passing the Delaware bar after 17 years of already being an attorney, and starting anew in Delaware.

Besides all of the volunteer work and his impressive career as our top public defender, Brendan's hallmark is serving his clients, coworkers, friends, and family well. His five children—Brendan, Eamon, Brian, Claire, and Rainey—are paramount in his mind and life.

If you are on his team, he is in your corner. Claire O'Neill Peabody, who interned at the public defender's office for a summer, wasn't exactly sure what her dad did there other than being the chief cheerleader, making the rounds every day, stopping by offices telling people what a great job they were doing. He is known for motivating both his employees and his family with famous one-liners and other inspiring words.

"Dad has a phrase, saying, or one-liner for just about every situation life can throw at you," Claire said. "One of his many mantras is 'Next play!'"

That one-liner, in particular, is one that he says to his kids all the time. "While explaining it takes away from the one-liner magic," Claire said, "I am pretty sure he wants us to take what we've learned from a previous experience but focus on the next thing in front of you."

Her dad's own "next play" will include a lot of play: golf and tennis, two of his favorite activities. "He's earned it," Claire said. "So good luck on your next play, Duner! Hit em straight!"

Eamon O'Neill said one of his favorite things about his father is the ability to relish in the simple joys of life while they are happening. His dad does not need to lose something to appreciate it; he enjoys what he has while he has it.

"For as long as I can remember, he has encouraged me to do the same," Eamon said. "Often, this happened as we were driving to one of the thousands of soccer practices my dad selflessly took me to over the years. As we were getting close to the field, he would remind me of how great and how much fun practice is and how lucky I was to be playing a game I loved with my friends."

This lesson did not always stick with Eamon as a teenager, but he thinks about it often as an adult. "The ability to be present and grateful and enthusiastic during the small and routine moments of life," Eamon continued, "is something I love about dad and try to emulate every day."

Brian O'Neill, who plays offensive tackle for the Minnesota Vikings, said, "play hard, have fun" is one of his dad's most famous quotes. "He has said this to us a few thousand times over the years. The message is simple—give your best and have fun while doing it."

Brian said that his father has lived and exemplified that quote every day of his professional and personal life. "I know he gave his best—to his cases, clients, coworkers, and colleagues," Brian said. "I know damn well he also had so much fun along the ride. He always says if you love what you do,

you'll never work a day in your life. If I can have half the fun he did in my career—I know I'll have a chance!"

My family had the opportunity to get to know the O'Neills well. They lived next to us when we were in the Triangle Neighborhood in Wilmington. There was a fence between our yards, and we took that fence down; we were one big family.

Brendan is truly the salt of the earth. He is smart, loyal, and kind. He is funny and always makes everyone in the room feel welcome.

"You want Brendan on your team," my wife Annie said. "He takes everything in stride; he sticks by you. We love him, and he and his family fill our cup and our hearts!"

For me, Brendan epitomizes what it means to be a good attorney, a good father, and a good friend—really the best of Delaware, an immeasurably decent and kind person.

Along with so many in our State, Annie and I wish him and his family the best in retirement. To Brendan, as the old Irish blessing goes: "May good luck be your friend in whatever you do and may trouble be always a stranger to you."

For your extraordinary dedication to advancing justice in the State of Delaware, for all of the people whose lives you have positively impacted, and for the decades of service and sacrifice: Thank you.●

#### PRIVILEGED NOMINATION REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2021

On request by Senator TOMMY TUBERVILLE, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security: Leona M. Bridges, of California, to be a Member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board for a term expiring October 11, 2023, vice William S. Jasien, term expired.

On request by Senator TOMMY TUBERVILLE, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security: Javier E. Saade, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board for a term expiring October 11, 2022, vice David Avren Jones, term expired.

On request by Senator TOMMY TUBERVILLE, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security: Stacie Olivares, of California, to be a Member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board for a term expiring September 25, 2024, vice Ronald David McCray, term expired.

On request by Senator TOMMY TUBERVILLE, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security: Dana Katherine Bilyeu, of Nevada, to be a

Member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board for a re-appointment term expiring October 11, 2023.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:14 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 189. An act to increase, effective as of December 1, 2021, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1281. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Gaylord, Michigan, as the "Navy Corpsman Steve Andrews Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Clinic".

H.R. 3475. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Columbus, Georgia, as the "Robert S. Poydasheff VA Clinic".

H.R. 4172. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Aurora, Colorado, as the "Lieutenant Colonel John W. Mosley VA Clinic".

H.R. 5293. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend and modify certain authorities and requirements relating to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

#### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 4:31 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 272. An act to amend the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, to require the budget justifications and appropriation requests of agencies be made publicly available.

S. 325. An act to amend the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children Act to extend the deadline for a report by the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1281. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Gaylord, Michigan, as the "Navy Corpsman Steve Andrews Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Clinic"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 3475. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Columbus, Georgia, as the "Robert S. Poydasheff VA Clinic"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 4172. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Aurora, Colorado, as the "Lieutenant Colonel John W. Mosley VA Clinic"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2765. A bill to provide that Members of Congress may not receive pay after October 1 of any fiscal year in which Congress has not approved a concurrent resolution on the budget and passed the regular appropriations bills.

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

S. 2788. A bill to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program.

S. 2789. A bill making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for providing emergency assistance, and for other purposes.

#### ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today September 21, 2021, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 272. An act to amend the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, to require the budget justifications and appropriation requests of agencies be made publicly available.

S. 325. An act to amend the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children Act to extend the deadline for a report by the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1981. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Definitions of the European Union and the United Kingdom" (Docket No. APHIS-2021-0003) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1982. A communication from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2020 annual report of the Farm Credit Administration Regulator of the Farm Credit System; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1983. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "C10-C18-Alkyl dimethyl amine oxides (ADAOs); Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 8678-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1984. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Chlorpyrifos; Tolerance Revocations" (FRL No. 5993-04-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1985. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oxirane, 2-methyl-, polymer with oxirane, mono-(9Z)-9-octadecanoate, methyl ether; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 8745-02-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1986. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Thiabendazole; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 8750-02-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1987. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "a-Alkyl-w-hydroxypoly(oxypropylene) and/or poly(oxyethylene) polymers where the alkyl chain contains a minimum of 6 carbons; Exemptions from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 8799-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1988. A communication from the Director of the Regulations Management Division, Rural Development, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "The American Rescue Plan Act Emergency Rural Health Care Grant Program" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1989. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Leopoldo A. Quintas, Jr., United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1990. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Ricky L. Waddell, Jr., United States Army Reserve, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1991. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on